(d) if so, the details of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (d) Detailed plan to improve various animal enclosures in National Zoological Park, Delhi and to make them more naturalistic has been prepared. As envisaged under this plan construction of African Elephant and Chimpanzee enclosure has already been taken up.

Seizure of peacock-feathers at IGI Airport

2549. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "103 kg. of peacock- feathers seized at IGI airport", appearing in the Hindustan Times on 21st July, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact the 103 kg. of feathers believed to be derived from over a 1000 peacocks were seized from the baggage of two passengers, including an Air India employee; and

(c) if so, what exemplary punishment is being awarded to the gang involved in the racket, especially to the Air India Employees?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible to indicate the exact number of peacocks from which these feathers have been obtained. But the number would be substantial.

(c) Since peacocks shed tail feathers annually, these feathers are outside the purview of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. However, some penalty is imposed on the persons indulging in export of peacock-tail feathers in violation of Export-Import Policy under the Customs Act, 1962.

Area under Ranthambhor Tiger Project

†2550. DR. ABRAR AHMED:

SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area covered under Ranthambhor Tiger Project in Sawai

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.